

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for configuring a network device, the apparatus comprising a memory configured to store ~~storing~~ instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:
- ~~configuring a network to include the network device in a private virtual local area network (VLAN);~~
- powering up the network device, wherein the network device is associated with a private virtual local area network (VLAN) prior to being powered up;
- supplying, after powering up the network device, first boot data to the network device over ~~[[the]]~~ a network, wherein processing of the first boot data by the network device during a first startup of the network device causes the network device to bootup in image mode and, once in image mode, execute a provisioning process over the network;
- instructing the provisioning process to supply ~~one or more~~ at least one computer program~~[[s]]~~ to the network device over the network;
- powering down the network device after receiving the at least one computer program;
- re-configuring, after powering down the network device after receiving the at least one computer program, the network to remove the network device from the private VLAN; [[and]]
- powering up, after re-configuring the network, the network device; and
- supplying, after powering up the network device, second boot data to the network device over the network, wherein processing of the second boot data by the network device during a second startup of the network device causes the network device to bootup in application mode and to execute the ~~at least one of the one or more~~ computer program~~[[s]]~~.
- wherein the first boot data is a first boot loader script and the second boot data is a second boot loader script.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for configuring a network device in a network, the method comprising the machine-implemented steps of:

powering up the network device, wherein the network device is associated with a private virtual local area network (VLAN) prior to being powered up;

supplying, after powering up the network device, first boot data to the network device over the network, wherein processing of the first boot data by the network device during a first startup of the network device causes the network device to bootup in image mode and, once in image mode, to execute a provisioning process over the network;

instructing the provisioning process to supply image data to the network device over the network, wherein the image data includes at least one ~~or more~~ computer program[[s]]; [[and]]

powering down the network device after receiving the at least one computer program;

re-configuring, after powering down the network device after receiving the at least one computer program, the network to remove the network device from the private VLAN

powering up, after re-configuring the network, the network device; and

supplying, after powering up the network device, second boot data to the network device over the network, wherein processing of the second boot data by the network device during a second startup of the network device causes the network device to bootup in application mode and to execute the at least one ~~of the one or more~~ computer program[[s]] contained in the image data,

wherein the first boot data is a first boot loader script and the second boot data is a second boot loader script.

5. (Cancelled)
6. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 4, wherein the steps of supplying the first boot data to the network device over the network and supplying the second boot data to the network device over the network are performed using dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP).
7. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 4, wherein the first boot data is supplied to the network device over the network in a payload portion of a dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) reply generated and sent to the network device in response to receiving a DHCP request from the network device over the network.
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 4, wherein the at least one ~~or more~~ computer program[[s]] includes an operating system.
10. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 4, further comprising the machine-implemented step of selecting the image data to be supplied to the network device based upon provisioning criteria.

11. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in Claim 4, further comprising the machine-implemented steps of:

supplying, over the network, the first boot data to a second network device that is different than the network device, wherein processing of the first boot data by the second device during a first startup of the second network device causes the second network device to execute the provisioning process over the network;

instructing the provisioning process to supply second image data to the second network device, wherein the second image data is different than the first image data and includes at least one ~~or more~~ other computer program[[s]]; and

supplying the second boot data to the second network device, wherein processing of the second boot data by the second network device during a second startup of the second network device causes the second network device to execute at least one of the one or more other computer programs contained in the second image data.

12. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 4, wherein the step of instructing the provisioning process to supply image data to the network device over the network includes instructing the provisioning process to cause the image data to be retrieved from an image data repository and supplied to the network device over the network.

13. (Original) A machine-readable medium for configuring a network device in a network, the machine-readable medium carrying instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

powering up the network device, wherein the network device is associated with a private virtual local area network (VLAN) prior to being powered up;

supplying, after powering up the network device, first boot data to the network device over the network, wherein processing of the first boot data by the network device during a first startup of the network device causes the network device to bootup in image mode and, once in image mode, to execute a provisioning process over the network;

instructing the provisioning process to supply image data to the network device over the network, wherein the image data includes at least one ~~or more~~ computer program[[s]]; [[and]]

powering down the network device after receiving the at least one computer program;

re-configuring, after powering down the network device after receiving the at least one computer program, the network to remove the network device from the private VLAN

powering up, after re-configuring the network, the network device; and

supplying, after powering up the network device, second boot data to the network device over the network, wherein processing of the second boot data by the network device during a second startup of the network device causes the network device to bootup in application mode and to execute the at least one ~~of the one or more~~ computer program[[s]] contained in the image data,

wherein the first boot data is a first boot loader script and the second boot data is a second boot loader script.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) The machine-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein the steps of supplying the first boot data to the network device over the network and supplying the second boot data to the network device over the network are performed using dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP).

16. (Original) The machine-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein the first boot data is supplied to the network device over the network in a payload portion of a dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) reply generated and sent to the network device in response to receiving a DHCP request from the network device over the network.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein the at least one ~~or more~~ computer program[[s]] includes an operating system.

19. (Original) The machine-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, further comprising one or more additional instructions which, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the step of selecting the image data to be supplied to the network device based upon provisioning criteria.

20. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, further comprising one or more additional instructions which, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:
- supplying, over the network, the first boot data to a second network device that is different than the network device, wherein processing of the first boot data by the second device during a first startup of the second network device causes the second network device to execute the provisioning process over the network;
 - instructing the provisioning process to supply second image data to the second network device, wherein the second image data is different than the first image data and includes at least one ~~or more~~ other computer program[[s]]; and
 - supplying the second boot data to the second network device, wherein processing of the second boot data by the second network device during a second startup of the second network device causes the second network device to execute at least one of the one or more other computer programs contained in the second image data.
21. (Original) The machine-readable medium as recited in Claim 13, wherein the step of instructing the provisioning process to supply image data to the network device over the network includes instructing the provisioning process to cause the image data to be retrieved from an image data repository and supplied to the network device over the network.
22. (Cancelled)
23. (Cancelled)
24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as recited in Claim [[22]] 3, wherein the steps of supplying the first boot data to the network device over the network and supplying the second boot data to the network device over the network are performed using dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP).

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as recited in Claim [[22]] 3, wherein the first boot data is supplied to the network device over the network in a payload portion of a dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) reply generated and sent to the network device in response to receiving a DHCP request from the network device over the network.
26. (Cancelled)
27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as recited in Claim [[22]] 3, wherein the at least one ~~or more~~ computer program[[s]] includes an operating system.
28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as recited in Claim [[22]] 3, wherein the memory further comprises one or more additional instructions which, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the step of selecting the image data to be supplied to the network device based upon provisioning criteria.
29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as recited in Claim [[22]] 3, wherein the memory further comprises one or more additional instructions which, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:
- supplying, over the network, the first boot data to a second network device that is different than the network device, wherein processing of the first boot data by the second device during a first startup of the second network device causes the second network device to execute the provisioning process over the network;
 - instructing the provisioning process to supply second image data to the second network device, wherein the second image data is different than the first image data and includes at least one ~~or more~~ other computer program[[s]]; and
 - supplying the second boot data to the second network device, wherein processing of the second boot data by the second network device during a second startup of the second network device causes the second network device to execute at least one of the one or more other computer programs contained in the second image data.

30. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as recited in Claim ~~[[22]]~~ 3, wherein the step of instructing the provisioning process to supply image data to the network device over the network includes instructing the provisioning process to cause the image data to be retrieved from an image data repository and supplied to the network device over the network.